

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR, XA

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

REF: ADDIS 7156

1. PURSUANT TO WYMAN-SIMPSON TELECON JUNE 17 EMBASSY INQUIRED OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HAMID THAT AFTERNOON WHETHER PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE AND FONMIN KIFLE COULD MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS IF HE ADVANCED HIS TRIP TO ADDIS AND WERE HERE ON JUNE 19, 20 OR 21. HAMID WAS TOLD THAT REPLY BY MORNING JUNE 18 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. DURING COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH FONMIN KIFLE AT 1100 JUNE 18, I REQUESTED A RESPONSE REGARDING THESE PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS. KIFLE SAID THAT INQUIRY RE POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTMENT THIS WEEK HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE TO TEFERI BANTE. AS FOR HIMSELF, HE WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE ADDIS ON JUNE 23 TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY IN MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, HE MIGHT MAKE A SIDE TRIP TO RWANDA OR BURUNDI BEFOREHAND AND THUS WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO INDICATE WHETHER HE COULD MEET WITH SECRETARY DAVIS IN NEXT FEW DAYS. WHEN HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT DAVIS POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO ADDIS, HE HAD BEEN THINKING OF SEPTEMBER AS A MORE APPROPRIATE TIME IN VIEW OF THE MANY CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR JULY. HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOW REEXAMINE HIS TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND LET ME KNOW ON JUNE 19 WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MEET

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WITH DAVIS THIS WEEK. TOWARDS THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION HE

INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO SEND ME THIS INFORMATION UNTIL END OF THE AFTERNOON ON JUNE 19.

3. KIFLE INDICATED THAT HE WANTED TO VISIT QUITE A FEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES PRIOR TO THE KAMPALA SUMMIT BECAUSE THOSE WHICH HE HAD NOT VISITED RECENTLY WOULD FIND THEIR OMMISSION DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. ONLY TWO COUNTRIES HE SPECIFICALLY SAID HE WOULD VISIT WERE ZAIRE AND GABON.

4. COMMENT: AT NO TIME IN OUR CONVERSATION DID KIFLE SUGGEST THAT EPMG WAS ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS EVEN IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN. MOREOVER IT APPEARED TO ME FROM HIS ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPED TO SEE DAVIS AT A LATER TIME RATHER THAN THIS WEEK. IT IS POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT HIS ATTITUDE MAY BE RELATED TO THE RECENT CHARGES IN A KINSHASA DAILY ABOUT A US COUP PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT MOBUTU. KAMPALA OAU CM/SUMMIT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO EPMG IN RESPECT TO ERITREA. FONMIN HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING FOR WEEKS ON LINING UP AFRICAN SUPPORT -- PARTICULARLY OF COURSE THAT OF KEY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ZAIRE -- FOR ETHIOPIA IN KAMPALA. HE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER TO AVOID ANY MOVE WHICH CONVEIVABLY COULD DETRACT FROM THAT SUPPORT.
WYMAN

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